

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07883 050645Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03
DODE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 /038 W
-----105815 050647Z /12

P R 041300Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4381
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7883

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PK
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH BANGLADESH AMB TO IRAN

1. BANGLADESH AMB DOHA, WHO SEEMS WELL CONNECTED WITH THE CURRENT MLA LEADERSHIP IN PAKISTAN, HAS SHOWN ME IN GREAT CONFIDENCE A MESSAGE WHICH HE SENT RECENTLY TO DACCA. THE MESSAGE REPORTS ON THE VISIT TO TEHRAN OF A BRIGADIER WHO IS HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE FOR THE MLA. HE ALLEGEDLY CAME HERE TO VISIT WITH THE HEAD OF SAVAK AND THE SENIOR IRANIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

2. ACCORDING TO DOHA'S REPORT, THE PAKISTANIS WISHED TO ASSURE IRAN ON SEVERAL POINTS OF INTEREST. FIRST, THEY WISHED TO STATE THAT THE MLA WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH IRAN. SECOND, THEY SAID THEY WERE PREPARED TO ABANDON THE "CONFRONTATION POLICY" WITH INDIA. THIRD, THEY WISHED TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. FINALLY, THEY ENCOURAGED IRAN TO MAINTAIN ITS ACTIVE, CLOSE TIES WITH INDIA.

3. DOHA COMMENTED THAT NONE OF THESE STATEMENTS SOUNDED LIKE
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THOSE OF A CARETAKER GROUP. HE THEN WENT ON TO OFFER HIS VIEW (PART OF WHICH WAS BASED ON CONVERSATION WITH THE PAK BRIGADIER) THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPEAT NO GENERAL ELECTIONS IN PAKISTAN NEXT MONTH. HE SAID PAKS WERE STUDYING BANGLADESH EXAMPLE AND WOULD PROBABLY OPT FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS, NOT HIGHER THAN THE COUNCIL LEVEL. HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD PUT OFF GENERAL ELECTIONS INDEFINITELY. HE THOUGHT BHUTTO'S ARREST WOULD MAKE THIS DECISION EASIER.

4. DOHA THEN WENT ON TO RATTLE OFF A LIST OF NAMES AND PARTY AFFILIATIONS WHICH WERE ALIEN TO MY GRASP OF THE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN AND CONCLUDED THAT A NUMBER OF THESE WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO AN "INTERIM" GOVT TO BE HEADED BY GEN ZIA. HE SAID THE TOUCHSTONE OF THIS AGGREGATION WOULD BE TO BUILD ON THE "NEW BASE" IN PAKISTAN POLITICS, WHICH WOULD BE A COALITION OF THE "MILITARY AND THE MULLAHS". HE DESCRIBED THIS GROUP AS THE SAUDI ARABIAN WING AND FELT THAT ITS ESSENTIAL OPPOSITION WAS THE GROUP WHICH HE CALLED THE LIBYAN WING.

5. IN DOHA'S VIEW, THE MLA WILL PROBABLY KEEP ITS OPTIONS OPEN UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER, AND THEN PROCEED TO MODIFY THEIR PLANS IN THE MANNER SUGGESTED ABOVE. (ZELLI, FORMER IRANIAN AMB TO PAKISTAN, HAS MADE THE SAME OBSERVATION TO ME).

6. COMMENT: I RELAY ALL THIS FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH VERY LARGELY BECAUSE DOHA IS CONSIDERED BY OTHER OFFICERS IN THE EMB TO BE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT PAKISTAN AND AN INTELLIGENT, ACCURATE REPORTER. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN07883
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770321-0565
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770997/aaaadecf.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6a30fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1385944
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH BANGLADESH AMB TO IRAN
TAGS: PINT, PDIP, PK, IR, US, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a30fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009